

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 12955 191914Z

42

ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 SP-03 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 DRC-01 EB-11 AGR-20 OMB-01

TRSE-00 STR-08 COME-00 SPM-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /133 W

----- 077155

P R 191818Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7008

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12955

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, FAO

SUBJECT: WFC - DISCUSSION WITH RUSSIAN DELEGATION - SEPTEMBER
19, 1974.

AMBASSADOR MARTIN ACCOMPANIED BY TUSSEY, SMITH AND PLACKE MET
WITH USSR DELEGATION SEPTEMBER 19 AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY
RUSSIANS TO INFORMALLY EXCHANGE VIEWS ON ISSUES BEING
DISCUSSED AT PREPCOM MEETING. ALTHOUGH RUSSIANS ARE
FRIENDLY AND PLEASANT, THEY WERE GUARDED ON PROVIDING
INFORMATION RE THEIR VIEWS. FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS
DISCUSSED AND RUSSIAN REACTION:

1. WHEN ASKED FOR THEIR OPINION ON INTERNATIONAL GRAIN
RESERVE IDEA OUTLINED IN PAPER THEY HAD RECEIVED FROM US TWO
DAYS EARLIER, RESPONSE WAS USSR SHARED OUR CONCERN ABOUT
WORLD GRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION BUT COULD NOT COMMENT OR
SPECIFY PROPOSALS UNTIL THEY HAD COMMUNICATED WITH MOSCOW.
THEY ASKED REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WE HAD CONSULTED.
AMB. MARTIN REPLIED QUOTE CAUTIOUS INTEREST UNQUOTE. THEY
SAID THAT WENT FOR THEM TOO. RUSSIANS INDICATED THEY WOULD
PREPARE A DETAILED REPORT OF PRE-PREPCOM MEETING AND WOULD
INCLUDE CONVERSATION WITH AMB. MARTIN. THEY FELT IT USEFUL
TO CONTINUE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND WOULD
CONTACT US DELEGATION AS SOON AS INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 12955 191914Z

MOSCOW. WE INDICATED READINESS TO CONSULT AT ANY TIME ON ANY

POINT.

2. AMB. MARTIN WAS ASKED TO GIVE US RATIONALE BEHIND SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVE SYSTEM. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED US POSITION POINTING OUT WORLD GRAIN SUPPLY SITUATION HAS CHANGED WITH US NO LONGER EXPECTING ACCUMULATE LARGE STOCKS BUT USING SET ASIDES AS PREFERRED WAY TO SUPPORT FARM INCOMES. ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM NEED TO PREVENT DISRUPTIVE SWINGS IN GRAIN MARKETS DUE TO VAGARIES OF WEATHER, AND TO TAKE CARE OF FAMINE THREATS. IN VIEW THIS SITUATION, US WILLING ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVE SYSTEM. IT WAS ALSO INDICATED US BELIEVES ESSENTIAL RESERVES BE UNDER CONTROL OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND NOT IN HANDS OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY. THIS POINT BROUGHT VIGOROUS NODS OF APPROVAL FROM RUSSIANS.

3. AMB. MARTIN INDICATED US STILL DELIBERATING ON MANY ASPECTS PROPOSAL SUCH AS UNDER WHAT AUSPICES AGREEMENT ON RESERVES WOULD BE NEGOTIATED, WHETHER AND IF SO WHAT SANCTIONS MIGHT BE AGAINST NON-PARTICIPANTS, LEVEL OF RESERVE STOCKS AND FAIREST BASIS FOR BURDEN-SHARING. ALSO MADE CLEAR GOAL WAS RESERVES IN ADDITION TO WORKING STOCKS AND NOT INTERESTED IN STRATEGIC STOCKS, IF ANY. NO RESPONSE ON THESE ISSUES WERE FORTHCOMING FROM THE RUSSIANS.

4. RUSSIANS PRESSED US ON WHY PRC NOT INCLUDED IN OUR LIST OF MUST COUNTRIES SINCE THEY ARE CURRENTLY MAJOR NET IMPORTERS OF GRAIN. AMB. MARTIN INDICATED WE DO NOT BELIEVE PRC WILL CONTINUE BEING MAJOR GRAIN IMPORTER AS THEY ARE TAKING MEASURES TO INCREASE THEIR OWN PRODUCTION SUCH AS INVESTING HEAVILY IN FERTILIZER PLANTS. HOWEVER, DESPITE THIS, AMB. ASSURED RUSSIANS PRC WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY REITERATED THEIR BELIEF IN LOGIC OF PRC PARTICIPATION.

5. ON PROVIDING MORE INFORMATION, RUSSIANS RAISED POSSIBILITY OF PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUAL US FIRMS. WE INDICATED US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PUBLISH DATA ON INDIVIDUAL FIRMS - ONLY GLOBAL DATA. RUSSIANS STATED THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THEM SINCE THEY HAVE ONLY ONE GRAIN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 12955 191914Z

TRADING FIRM-EXPORT-KLEB. TO PUBLISH DATA WOULD REVEAL COMMERCIAL SECRETS OF THIS QUOTE FIRM UNQUOTE.

6. RUSSIANS WERE NEGATIVE ON FAO AS AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION POINTING OUT IT IS LARGEST INTERNATIONAL BUREAUCRACY AND ANO VERY EFFICIENT. AMB. MARTIN INDICATED FAO HAD ITS FAULTS AS DO ALL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT ONE OUTCOME OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE COULD BE A STRENGTHENING OF FAO WHICH MIGHT BE HELPED IF IT

HAD UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP. RUSSIANS RESPONDED THAT THIS NOT NECESSARILY SO SINCE THEY ARE MEMBERS OF ILO WHICH HAS NOT IMPROVED ITS OPERATIONS.

7. ON USSR CROP SITUATION USSR DELEGATION STATED THEY STILL EXPECTED MAKE GRAIN TARGET OF 205 MILLION TONS. STATED MOST COARSE GRAINS GROWN IN EUROPEAN PART OF USSR AND CROPS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE. THEY ALSO CONFIRMED THAT MAJOR EFFORT UNDERWAY TO RECLAIM NEW LANDS AROUND MOSCOW MAINLY FOR BARLEY PRODUCTION.

8. RUSSIANS STATED THEY DID NOT PLAN MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS AT THIRD PREPCOM MEETING AS THEIR POSITIONS FOR AND ROLE AT WFC WOULD NOT BE WORKED OUT UNTIL TIME OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THEY WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL FACT NO RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BEING PROVIDED DESPITE FACT PREPCOM BEING SPONSORED BY UN. APPARENTLY, THEY PLAN MAKE COMPLAINT DURING THIRD PREPCOM MEETING. END. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME12955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740263-0470
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740931/aaaabahk.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SWF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WFC - DISCUSSION WITH RUSSIAN DELEGATION - SEPTEMBER 19, 1974.
TAGS: EAGR, PORG, US, UR, FAO, WFC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005